THE CLAIMS:

1. to 18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus that transmits, via a network, binary image data to an external image recording device, which records an image based on the binary image data, said apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting, pixel by pixel, multilevel image data containing gray-scale information;

binarization means for binarizing the multilevel image data by using a dot connectivity parameter which is variably controllable to control dot connectivity in a binary image;

communication means for communicating with the external image recording device via the network;

characteristic-information acquisition means for acquiring, by said communication means, characteristic-information concerning dot reproducibility from the external image recording device, wherein the characteristic-information differs according to a type of the external image recording device;

determination means for determining the dot connectivity parameter to be used by the binarization means in accordance with the characteristic-information acquired by said characteristic-information acquisition means; and

transmitting means for transmitting image data binarized by said binarization means to the external image recording device,

wherein said binarization means binarizes the multilevel image data using the dot connectivity parameter determined by the determination means, and

said transmitting means transmits the image data binarized by said binarization means to the external image recording device from which the characteristic-information is acquired.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising correlation storing means for storing a correlation between the dot connectivity parameter and the characteristic-information of the external image recording device.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising dot connectivity parameter storing means for storing the dot connectivity parameter determined by said determination means,

wherein said binarization means binarizes the multilevel image data by using the dot connectivity parameter stored in said dot connectivity parameter storing means.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said determination means calculates a dot connectivity parameter which is suitable for the external image recording device based on the acquired characteristic-information.

23. (Previously Presented) A method for an image processing apparatus that transmits, via a network, binary image data to an external image recording device, which records an image based on the binary image data, the method comprising:

an input step of inputting, pixel by pixel, multilevel image data containing gray-scale information;

a binarization step of binarizing the multilevel image data by using a dot connectivity parameter which is variably controllable to control dot connectivity in a binary image;

a communication step of communicating with the external image recording device via the network;

a characteristic-information acquisition step of acquiring, by the communication step, characteristic-information concerning dot reproducibility from the

external image recording device, wherein the characteristic-information differs according to a type of the external image recording device;

a determination step of determining the dot connectivity parameter to be used in said binarization step in accordance with the characteristic-information acquired in said characteristic-information acquisition step; and

a transmitting step of transmitting image data binarized in said binarization step to the external image recording device,

wherein the binarization step binarizes the multilevel image data by using the dot connectivity parameter determined in said determination step, and

the transmitting step transmits the image data binarized in said binarization step to the external image recording device which characteristic-information is acquired.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, further comprising a correlation storing step of storing a correlation between the dot connectivity parameter and the characteristic-information of the external image recording device.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, further comprising a dot connectivity parameter storing step of storing the dot connectivity parameter determined by the determination step,

wherein the binarization step binarizes the multilevel image data by using the stored dot connectivity parameter.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the determination step calculates a dot connectivity parameter that is suitable for the external image output recording device, which communicates via the network, based on the acquired characteristic-information.

27. to 29. (Canceled)